The University of Southern Queensland

Course Specification

Description: Psychology Masters Project A

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Subject</th>
<th>Cat-Nbr</th>
<th>Class</th>
<th>Term</th>
<th>Mode</th>
<th>Units</th>
<th>Campus</th>
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<tr>
<td>PSY</td>
<td>8160</td>
<td>10535</td>
<td>1, 2002</td>
<td>ONC</td>
<td>1.00</td>
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Academic Group: FOSCI
Academic Org: FOS005
HECS Band: 1
ASCED Code: 090701

STAFFING
Examiner: Paul Bramston
Moderator: Grace Pretty

RATIONALE
The scientist-practitioner model of professional practice in psychology has broad consensual agreement within the profession. It follows that students must be able to design a substantial empirical project concerned with the application of theory in a selected area. This course gives them the opportunity to do so in a supervised, learning environment.

SYNOPSIS
This is the first of two courses that contribute towards the Psychology Masters Project. The student will prepare to undertake a supervised research project by completing a literature review and determining a methodology, and obtaining the required ethical approval for the project.

OBJECTIVES
On successful completion of this course students will be able to demonstrate competencies in critically reviewing literature and competently designing research projects to address theoretical and practical questions and issues in the field, as identified in the APS Competencies for Psychologists (1996) and the research competencies identified for the related Colleges of Community, Health and Sport Psychology:

- Critically evaluate current theoretical and empirical literature pertaining to a topic appropriate to the student's area of speciality;
- formulate objectives and hypotheses for further research based on the critical review;
- develop an appropriate model to guide the research project method and analyses;
- develop and apply appropriate methods for addressing the hypotheses or meeting the research objectives;
• address practical issues related to the project;
• prepare a research proposal to the specifications of the criteria described below;
• prepare and submit an Ethics Approval Application.

TOPICS

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Description</th>
<th>Weighting (%)</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1. To be determined by the student in consultation with his/her supervisor.</td>
<td>100.00</td>
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REFERENCE MATERIALS

Reference materials are materials that, if accessed by students, may improve their knowledge and understanding of the material in the course and enrich their learning experience.

Articles and books recommended by the supervisor.

STUDENT WORKLOAD REQUIREMENTS

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>ACTIVITY</th>
<th>HOURS</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Private Study</td>
<td>127</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Supervisor Consultation</td>
<td>13</td>
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<td>Tutorial</td>
<td>26</td>
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ASSESSMENT DETAILS

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Description</th>
<th>Marks Out of</th>
<th>Wtg(%)</th>
<th>Required</th>
<th>Due Date</th>
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<tr>
<td>RESEARCH PROPOSAL</td>
<td>100.00</td>
<td>100.00</td>
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<td>04 Mar 2002</td>
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Notes:
1. Further details about the due dates are detailed in the assessment section of the Course Specifications.

OTHER REQUIREMENTS

1. The research proposal shall include: An overview of the theoretical and practical literature guiding the research. This is not as extensive as the literature review for the thesis itself, but should provide the assessors with evidence that the student is knowledgeable in the theoretical models and underpinning the hypotheses, the methods appropriate to investigate the subject, and the recent research findings in areas related to the thesis topic; a statement of the aims of the investigation and of specific hypotheses. These should flow logically and be clearly developed from
the theoretical and applied literature reviewed in the Introduction. The hypotheses should be stated such that the proposed analyses is evident. For example, participants in group x will respond with scores higher on questionnaire z than participants in groups -, -, and -. Or, participants' scores on questionnaire z will be related to scores on the -, -, and - questionnaires; a detailed description of the Method to be used in the project including the participants to be selected, method of selection/recruitment, measures/assessments/ testing/interview protocols to be used and procedures for administering these. Copies of recruitment letters, consent forms and interview formats, tests/questionnaires, etc are to be included in an Appendix to the Proposal; a description of the model guiding the statistical analyses to be used. In the case of qualitative data, a description of the proposed coding method and content analyses should be outlined; a list of all references made in the proposal; an Appendix with letters, measures etc.

2 In most cases the literature review, method and analyses sections will not exceed a total of 20 pages.

3 The Thesis Proposal should be submitted in duplicate to the Supervisor. Evaluation will be completed by the Supervisor and Program Coordinator or one other member of the Department.

4 Upon receiving notification that the Proposal is acceptable, the student may submit the Ethics Approval Form and the Resource Request Form to the Department Secretary who will forward them to the appropriate committee.

5 The course will be graded as Pass or Fail upon the approval of the Proposal and Ethics Application. A grade of Pass is required to allow a student to progress to the course 69595 Psychology Masters Project B.

6 The due date for assessments is the date by which a student must despatch an assignment to the USQ. The onus is on the student to provide proof of the despatch date, if requested by the Examiner. In accordance with the University's Policy on Assignments (Regulation 5.6.1), the Examiner of a course may grant an extension of the due date of an assignment in extenuating circumstances. This policy may be found in the USQ Handbook, the Distance Education Study Guide and the Faculty of Sciences' Orientation Handbook for new on-campus students. All students are advised to study and follow the guidelines associated with this policy.

7 An extension will be considered in extraordinary circumstances only. The extension will not be granted beyond six weeks after the end of the semester.

8 It is the student's responsibility to attend classes to ensure that they have the best chance to meet the objectives of the course and to be informed of course-related activities and administration.